

Introduced by: Assembly Member Van Daele
Drafted by: Assembly Member Van Daele
Introduced on: 04/06/2017
Adopted on: 04/06/2017

**KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH
RESOLUTION NO. FY2017-34**

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH IN SUPPORT OF CHANGES TO TIMING AND LOCATION OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE “NORTHERN EDGE ‘17” TRAINING EXERCISE, AND SUBSEQUENT OPERATIONS, IN THE GULF OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, all of the communities in the Kodiak Island Borough are economically and culturally dependent upon strong fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the economies of the City of Kodiak as well as the road system and remote communities of the Kodiak Island Borough are already struggling due to downturns in the national and international pollock markets and weak pink salmon returns; and,

WHEREAS, Kodiak has an important history of being a Navy town, and the current military presence of the US Naval Special Warfare Command and US Coast Guard are essential elements of our economy, community, and safety of our residents; and,

WHEREAS, the efforts of the Department of Defense to communicate and consult with local organizations regarding past and planned Northern Edge exercises are greatly appreciated; and,

WHEREAS, it is essential for the military to be able to conduct meaningful exercises for the sake of national security, which encompasses the security of Kodiak, the security of Alaska, and the security of the United States as a whole; and,

WHEREAS, food security and economic security are also essential elements of national security, and it is critical for the communities of Kodiak to have harvestable fisheries resources to sustain our families, as well as to provide seafood for markets across the United States and the entire world; and,

WHEREAS, previous military exercises have occurred when populations of migratory fish species are locally low or absent, and/or been conducted in areas of lower habitat importance for feeding and rearing of economically and culturally essential fisheries resources; and,

WHEREAS, a military presence in the Gulf of Alaska can be conducted to minimize negative impacts on the existing maritime framework of subsistence and commercial economies and cultures reliant on fisheries in Kodiak; and,

WHEREAS, flexibility in changing the spatial and temporal locations of maritime exercises has demonstrated that strong fisheries and naval activities are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH THAT:

Section 1: The Kodiak Island Borough Assembly hereby requests the US Navy to continue its communication and consultation with the communities of Kodiak and their tribal and municipal governments to assist us in protecting our fisheries; to cooperate with our researchers to enhance knowledge of these fisheries resources; and to determine equitable methods to conduct their naval exercises without negatively impacting our Archipelago's economies, such as through the moratorium on expending live ordnance on the Portlock Bank.

Section 2: The Kodiak Island Borough Assembly hereby requests the US Navy to conduct their activities in the Temporary Marine Activities Area after September when overall marine mammal, fish, and migratory bird abundances are lower; and to avoid the northwestern area of the TMAA that includes the State Marine Protected Area, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Essential Salmon Habitat Protected Area, and the Gulf of Alaska Seamount Protected areas.

Section 3: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH
THIS SIXTH DAY OF APRIL, 2017.**

KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH



Daniel A. Rohrer, Mayor

ATTEST:



Nova M. Javier, MMC, Clerk

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UNANIMOUS VOTE:

Ayes: LeDoux, Skinner, Smiley, Symmons, Townsend, and Van Daele

Absent: Crow